

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Method for manufacturing a dental prosthesis, said method comprising the following steps:
 - a Recording and digitizing (scanning) 3-dimensional, anatomical relationships in an oral cavity;
 - b Optional recording and digitizing (scanning) 3-dimensional data on bite rims;
 - c Optional recording of mandibular data, which normally are taken on a patient for placement of an articulator;
 - d Processing of data record D0 from a and optionally b and/or c in such a way that relevant anatomical structures for virtual placement of teeth are securely affixed, and a virtual model is obtained as data record D1;
 - e Selection of 3-D data records of fabricated, previously scanned teeth from a data record D3;
 - f Virtual placement of the teeth into the virtual model, data record D2;

and

EITHER

- j Transferring the virtual placement to the model by either a positioning template, or direct placement of the fabricated teeth on the model;
- k Affixing the teeth to the model;
- l Attachment of a denture base;

OR

- j Direct manufacture of the denture base, according to the data for a virtual denture placement, with positioning aids for the final correct positioning and affixing of the fabricated teeth.
2. Method according to Claim 1, wherein step a is performed by directly recording an oral situation using a 3-D camera.

3. Method according to Claim 1, wherein step a is performed by scanning a plaster model.
4. Method according to Claim 1, wherein following step f
 - g Mandibular movements are simulated in/on a computer.
5. Method according to Claim 4, wherein following step g
 - h The function and occlusion are inspected in/on the computer.
6. Method according to Claim 5, wherein following step h
 - i The placement of teeth is manually corrected, and a new calculation is performed to adapt to the determined bite data and optimal occlusion (data record D2A).
7. Method according to Claim 1, wherein in step j the positioning template is milled or rapid prototyped.
8. Method according to Claim 1, wherein in step b the bite rims are occlusion rims.
9. Device for the manufacture of a dental prosthesis, essentially comprising the following:
 - a Scanning or recording apparatus for recording a digital 3-D data record D0 for an oral situation, on a patient or on a (plaster) model,
 - b Processing device for producing data for a virtual model of the oral situation (data record D1),
 - c 3-D data record for prefabricated dental prostheses D3,
 - d Processing module for fitting dental data D3 into the oral situation data D1, with the creation of a virtual model D2 with integrated dental prosthetic teeth (data record D2),
 - e Simulation module for mandibular movements (virtual articulator), in which modified positions of teeth are tested and optimized on virtual model D2,
 - f Device for manufacturing a positioning template or a denture base from data records D2.